1: Jenness--88-89 (1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo
116, 421

"Such a division of labour is naturally accompanied by a division of property. Roughly speaking three kinds of property may be distinguished, personal, family, and communal. Personal property comprises everything that is employed by the individual in his daily life. Most of these articles have been made by their owner, or else acquired by barter. In the case of a man they include his tools and his weapons, the tent and the sled, together with some or all of the dogs that drag the sled. The wife's property similarly comprises her household utensils and implements, the pot and the lamp with the boards and poles that support them (but not the table, it would seem), her knives, her fire-making apparatus, her sewing-kit, her fishing rod, and her walking stick. Some of [89] these things she has received from her kinsfolk before she was married, others she has made herself or obtained by barter, while a few articles may have been made for her by her husband. One or more of the dogs, too, may be her property. Ikpakhuak had five dogs drawing his sled; three belonged to himself, one was Higilak's, while the fifth belonged to his step-daughter Kanneyuk. During the summer of 1915 Higilak's dog bore a litter of young ones. It was not possible to preserve more than two of them, and of these one was given to Kanneyuk; henceforward the girl had to take care of it, and carry it on the march until it was able to walk. Later, when she married, the dog would go with her to her new home. The same girl had a bow and quiver made for her by her step-father, who also made a set for his adopted son Haugak.

Other things are given to children, and some they soon learn to make for themselves, such as marrow spatulae and needle-cases. Clothing is always the property of the wearer. Articles picked up while travelling, like copper and pyrites, belong to the finder. Ikpakhuak found a large plank which had drifted ashore in Penny bay, and used it to make two fish-spears for himself. There was more wood than he needed in the plank, however, so he gave the rest to his kinsfolk.

The amount of property that may be accumulated in these ways by a single individual or family is considerable. It suffices for virtually all their needs, minor articles that they cannot make for themselves being obtained by barter with friends and relatives. How nearly self-sufficing an Eskimo can be is shown by a popular remark that is often quoted: --

'The man needs nothing but the heavy skin of the bearded seal for his boot-soles, and the skin of the young rough seal for socks.'"

13: Jenness--86
116, 421

(1914-1916) 1917

Copper Eskimo

"Speaking generally, all food is shared in common, but weapons, tools and household furnishings are private property."